(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the reasons for effecting such transfers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A request from Chairman, General Insurance Corporation of India has been received asking for the services, of senior Government officers for induction into the cadre of General Managers in the general insurance industry, on permanent absorption basis. Government have taken note of this reference for such action as may be found necessary.

Permission to float 'India fund' by Merrill Lynch and Company of the United States

973. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an American business corporation. Merrill Lynch and Company has been permitted by the Government of India to float an investment fund, called 'India Fund' to attract equity finance from outside India, if so, what are the details of the fund and the precise object thereof; and

(b) whether Government's approval for floating this fund signifies a change in their policy, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Government have approved the establishment of a mutual fund company/trust called the 'India International Fund' by UTI and Merrill Lynch of USA with an initial capital of $60 million. The equity capital of the fund will be raised from foreign institutional and individual investors, as well as non-resident Indians. The capital raised by the Fund will be invested in a Special Unit Scheme of Unit Trust of India (UTI) and the UTI in turn would be investing the amount so received in India. The main advantage of the Scheme is that additional resources for investment would be available to the country, and that this will also help the development of the Indian capital market.

(b) The approval given by the Government for the establishment of the fund does not signify a change in the policy of the Government

Dismissal/Suspension of officers and employees of the Ministry of Finance

974. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any officers and employees of the Ministry of Finance were compulsorily retired, dismissed or suspended during the period from 1st December, 1985 to 10th February, 1986; if so, what is their number and the grounds on which such action was taken;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of these officers and employees were found to be involved in anti-national activities. and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house as soon as possible.